

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 OMB-01 CIEP-02

DRC-01 /139 W

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R 181450Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6639

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 1340

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, WZ

SUBJECT: BELGIAN AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON SWAZILAND/
PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS

REF: MBABANE 0983

SUMMARY: BELGIAN AMBASSADOR SWINNEN CALLED AT EMBASSY
JULY 17 FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON SWAZILAND/PORTUGUESE
DEVELOPMENTS. AMBASSADOR SAID HE SURPRISED BY DEPTH OF
FEAR OF SWAZIS ABOUT POSSIBLE FRELIMO TAKEOVER IN
MOZAMBIQUE. AMBASSADOR SAID SWAZI PM HAD LEARNED
IN LUSAKA MEETING IN MAY THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED
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TO FORM FEDERATION BETWEEN TANZANIA AND MOZAMBIQUE AFTER

TAKEOVER OF LATTER BY FRELIMO. END SUMMARY.

1. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR SWINNEN CALLED AT EMBASSY JULY 17 TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AT CONCLUSION AMBASSADOR'S ONE-WEEK VISIT TO SWAZILAND. AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN DEPTY OF SWAZI FEAR OF FRELIMO TAKEOVER IN MOZAMBIQUE. SWINNEN SAID GOS WAS "VIRTUALLY PREOCCUPIED" WITH QUESTION AND THAT SENIOR GOS OFFICIALS ALL EXPRESSED EXTREME APPREHENSION.

2. SPECULATING ON REASONS FOR DEPTY OF SWAZI FEAR, AMBASSADOR GAVE TWO REASONS:

(A) SWAZI PRIME MINISTER HAD RECEIVED "COLD-WATER SHOCK" AT LUSAKA CONFERENCE IN MAY WHEN HE MET WITH NYERERE, KAUNDA AND LIBERATION MOVEMENT LEADERS. PM REPORTEDLY WAS ALARMED AT RADICAL AND UNCOMPROMISING STANCE TAKEN, ESPECIALLY BY NYERERE AND FRELIMO, IN ADDITION, SWAZIS REPORTEDLY CAME UNDER "INTENSE PRESSURE" TO BREAK" WITH SOUTH AFRICA. SWAZI PM REPORTEDLY TOLD BELGIAN AMBASSADOR, "NO ONE WILL PUSH US OUT FRONT ON THIS".

(B) PRESENT SWAZI GOVERNMENT, BEGINNING WITH KING SOBUZA II, HAS NEVER UNDERSTOOD OR BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO VIEWS OF YOUNGER AFRICAN NATIONALISTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE "TAINTED" BY LEFTIST ASSOCIATIONS SUCH AS CHARACTERIZE FRELIMO.

3. PM REPORTEDLY ALSO TOLD BELGIAN AMBASSADOR THAT IN LUSAKA HE HAD LEARNED "PRESUMABLY FROM NYERERE", ACCORDING SWINNEN) THAT AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED BETWEEN TANZANIA AND SAMORA MACHEL OF FRELIMO PROVIDING FOR FEDERATION OF TANZANIA AND MOZAMBIQUE AFTER TAKEOVER OF LATTER BY FRELIMO. PROSPECT OF FEDERATION MADE SWAZIS VERY UNEASY.

4. AMBASSADOR SWINNEN SAID HE BELIEVED SWAZIS, IN GIVING MORAL AND, ACCORDING TO RUMOR, FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO FRECOMO WERE RUNNING DANGEROUS RISK OF ALIENATING FRELIMO. THIS WAS A RISK WHICH COULD COST THEM DEARLY
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IN FUTURE IF, AS APPEARS LIKELY, FRELIMO COMES TO POWER IN MOZAMBIQUE.

5. SWINNEN SAID SWAZI PM HAD "APPEALED" TO WEASTERN NATIONS FOR HELP TO PREVENT FRELIMO TAKEOVER IN MOZAMBIQUE. PM REPORTEDLY POINTED TO MAP OF AFRICA AND ASKED WHETHER WEST WAS NOT CONCERNED THAT ENTIRE COASTLINE FROM HORN TO SOUTH AFRICA COULD FALL INTO UNFRIENDLY HANDS.

6. MEMCON BEING POUCHED AF/S JULY 19.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR SWINNEN CORRECTLY DETECTED DEEPENING SWAZI FEAR OF DEVELOPMENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE, BELIEVE SWINNEN MAY HAVE SOMEWHAT EXAGGERATED SWAZI APPREHENSIONS, PERHAPS BECAUSE THEY REINFORCE HIS OWN APPARENTLY RATHER CONSERVATIVE VIEWS. SWINNEN'S ACCOUNT OF PM'S REPORT OF TANZANIA/MOZAMBIQUE FEDERATION AGREEMENT IS INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT. PM DID NOT RPT NOT REPORT THIS IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE ON LUSAKA CONFERENCE REPORTED REFTEL. UNDERSTAND FROM SWINNEN HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SEEN FEDERATION RUMOR REPORTED IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS. CONFIRMATION OF REPORT OF PM'S REMARKS MAY EMERGE FROM AMBASSADOR BOLEN'S MEETING WITH PM SCHEDULED FOR JULY 23. MCCONNELL

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